



March 16, 2010

Dear Detroit Citizens,

I would like to share what we have been working on during my first 60 days in office.

As the chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee, I am working with the Detroit Police Department on a Secondary Employment program, which will allow police officers to work private security during off-duty hours. Helping institute this program is a commitment I made to you, the voter, during the campaign.

The Secondary Employment program will increase the number of officers on our streets without added costs to the City of Detroit. For instance, neighborhoods that hire private security firms can have off-duty officers in scout cars, which will allow the Detroit Police Department the opportunity to deploy on-duty officers to neighborhoods that don't have private security on routine patrol.

We are also working with the administration on improving the vacant housing demolition process. We need to fast track the process through identifying and clustering the most dangerous structures as opposed to the scattered site demolition approach. Utilizing the \$14 Million in federal stimulus funds, we expect at least 2,500 homes will be demolished this year. Additionally, we have access to \$21 Million in an insurance escrow account (from burnt-out homes) the City can use for the demolition program.

With a number of issues facing City Council, I have made my primary focus the budget. I take the responsibility of City Council being the fiduciary for Detroit taxpayers very seriously. If we cannot operate within our means, we may face receivership or bankruptcy. In addition to a structural deficit of more than \$300 Million, we are operating this year on a \$75 - \$100 Million deficit; therefore all means to make cuts must be made.

In April, we will enter the review process for the new budget cycle. In the meantime I have been urging contractors, vendors and quasi-governmental agencies to take 10-percent reductions in their costs. I understand everyone is making a sacrifice, including City employees. We must all share in the burden to reduce the city's deficit. I will continue to vote "NO" on contracts that do not reduce expenses by at least 10 percent.

These are only a few areas that we are now working on. I will continue to perform the diligence necessary to uncover the facts before casting my vote in the interests of all Detroit residents.

Please visit my website, www.garybrown4detroit.com to keep posted on our progress and find events that impact Detroit's residents and businesses.

Respectfully,

Gary A. Brown
President Pro Tem
Detroit City Council

City Council President Pro Tem Gary A. Brown has a proven track record of dedicated service to the City of Detroit. As your councilman he is providing leadership, accountability and transparency in city government. With a record of being a consensus builder, he is helping to restore integrity and unity to council. President Pro Tem Brown is working collaboratively with colleagues, the mayor, other levels of government and business and community organizations to address the most significant challenges facing Detroit. President Pro Tem Brown promises to be your champion and humble servant on issues that matter to you, and to be a vigilant custodian of your hard-earned taxpayer dollars.